

February 18, 2019

RE: Support for SB 608

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keith Scholz, I am a 65 year old, disabled, native Oregonian, I have rented since 1971 when I graduated from High School and went out on my own. In 2017, I experienced my first eviction. This was so my landlord could “renovate” my apartment, which I had for 11 years, and jack up the rent. Dealing with the “section 8” program extended the time before I could move. I moved into my apartment on September of 2017. The next May I was notified my lease would not be renewed. A lot of my friends who are homeless struggle everyday to safely be able to take care of themselves, as someone who offered them sometimes a place to be with friends. I did not know that extending a helpful hand will get me eventually on the streets. I found out management had place a camera outside by bedroom window, with the explanation of monitoring the parking lot. They were monitoring who came inside my apartment. I was given less than two weeks to move, because of the circumstances since January 9, 2019, I have become homeless for the first time in my life.

I share this with you today, to strongly encourage you to pass relief for the thousands of Oregonians who are becoming closer and closer to becoming homeless due to unjust reasons, no cause evictions and skyrocketing rents. We need bold leadership that can provide safe and affordable homes around the state. We have no more time! You all must act NOW! SB 608 is a crucial step for all Oregonians, please passed this today.

Thank you!

